STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of JENNIFER ANNE CONGDON and BRUCE WILLIAM CONGDON, Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

BRUCE WILLIAM CONGDON,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

BRIDGETTE CONGDON,

Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED
November 1, 2005

No. 260373
Oakland Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 02-665473-NA

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

BRIDGETTE CONGDON,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

BRUCE WILLIAM CONGDON,

Respondent.

No. 260374
Oakland Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 02-665473-NA

Before: Gage, P.J., and Hoekstra and Murray, JJ.

PER CURIAM.

In these consolidated appeals, respondents appeal as of right from the trial court's order terminating their parental rights to the minor children under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j). We affirm.

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 3.977(J); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). At the time of the termination hearing, the children had been in care for approximately two years. The children were initially adjudicated temporary court wards in 2002, because of respondents' failure to properly care for the children, and because of an unfit environment that included alcoholism and domestic violence. Respondents pleaded no contest to the allegations in the initial petition. Services were provided to respondents for nearly two years, and respondents were given ample opportunity to demonstrate their ability to care for the children, but the evidence showed that respondents failed to sufficiently address the issues that led to adjudication.

Contrary to respondents' positions, simply attending counseling sessions, parenting classes, and family visits was not enough to preclude termination of their parental rights. Further, the record does not support respondent-father's general assertion that petitioner failed to provide necessary services. On the contrary, the record indicates that petitioner made reasonable efforts toward reunification through referrals and funding for many services, including in-home services for more than a year. Despite intervention and services, respondents remain unable or unwilling to understand, internalize, demonstrate, and employ proper parenting skills, failed to acknowledge the continuing issues of domestic violence and alcoholism, and continued to make inappropriate decisions regarding the children's well being. In light of respondents' history, psychological capacity, conduct, and lack of parenting skills, there is no reasonable likelihood that their circumstances will sufficiently change or improve and, therefore, no reasonable expectation that either respondent will be able to provide proper care and custody within a reasonable time considering the ages of the children. Furthermore, there is a reasonable likelihood that the children will be harmed if they are returned to either respondent. Also, the evidence also did not clearly show that termination of respondents' parental rights was not in the children's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 354; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Thus, the trial court did not err by terminating respondents' parental rights to the children. *Trejo*, *supra*.

Affirmed.

/s/ Hilda R. Gage
/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra
/s/ Christopher M. Murray